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PRESS RELEASE

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CITY ACCEPTS BID FOR THE FORMER MCKAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Beverly MA –On Monday September 15, 2014 the City of Beverly accepted the proposal from Windover Development to buy and redevelop the former McKay Elementary School and its property located at 131 McKay Street.

“We had four competitive bids.” Said Mayor Mike Cahill. “The evaluation committee and I spent many hours vetting each proposal. We are excited to move forward with a project that provides meaningful revenue to the city, fits appropriately with the character of the neighborhood and will create high quality rental housing in our city.”

Windover’s proposal will preserve the original school building while constructing a two story structure in place of the gymnasium. It will create thirty three apartments, a public walkway that will complete the Shoe Pond Walking Trail as well as an architecturally and aesthetically pleasing development that will enhance the existing neighborhood.

The Mayor continued, “Windover’s proposal represents the best deal for the city – a high quality redevelopment consistent with zoning and requiring no variances, that preserves one of our historic school buildings, and brings new revenues to the city without burdening city services. This is an exciting and positive outcome for Beverly.”

Ward Three City Councilor Jim Latter said, "I appreciate Mayor Cahill and his administration's hard work on this issue. From day one they showed a willingness to sit and listen to the concerns of the neighborhood. After two bid processes, and several meetings with stakeholders in the area, most of the residents I talked with were more supportive of this proposal than any other that utilized the existing structure. This is an important project both in the short term and the long term, and I look forward to working with all those involved to achieve an outcome that residents, city officials, and the investors can be proud of."

Please find *McKay RFP Evaluation Committee Recommendation to Mayor* attached.

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